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Freeborn & Peters LLP

March 8, 2004

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 408X);
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment
of Aurora, Nebraska to Central City, Nebraska**

Attorneys at Law

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Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing in the referenced docket are the original and ten copies of the affidavit of publication from the *Aurora News Register* that was missing from the filing.

Sincerely,

Brian Nettles

Chicago

Springfield

/bn
Enclosures

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

MAR 10 2004

Part of
Public Record



NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ABANDON

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company gives notice that on or after February 28, 2004, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 (a) and 49 C.F.R. § 11121, et seq., from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, for abandonment permitting the abandonment of 15.60 miles of railroad line between railroad M.P. 1.90 in Aurora, Hamilton County, Nebraska to M.P. 17.50 in Central City, Merrick County, Nebraska, which line segment traverses through United States Postal Zip Codes 68818, 68834 and 68826. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB-6 (Sub No. 408X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analyses (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 60 days after the filing of the petition for abandonment exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 or by calling that office at 202-565-1538.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington DC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1 (a) and 1104.3 (a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12 (a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Public Services at 202-565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative Michael Smith, Freeborn & Peters, 311 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6677-telephone (312) 360-6724.

February 25, 2004

Proof of Publication

STATE OF NEBRASKA }
 }
County of Hamilton } ss.

Kurt H. Johnson, or Paula J. Johnson being first duly sworn, deposes and says that they are co-publishers of the Aurora News-Register a weekly legal newspaper having a bona fide circulation of more than 300 copies published in Aurora, Nebraska, and said newspaper has been published for at least 52 consecutive weeks prior to publication of attached notice; that said publication is of general circulation; that attached notice was published one time(s)

February 25, 2004

Subscribed to in my presence
and sworn to before me this
25th day of Feb., 2004

Notary Public

Publication Fee
\$ 31.91

